



U.S. House of Representatives
Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

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The Pelosi Report

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Dear Friends:

This edition of **The Pelosi Report** includes highlights of August recess activities and an overview of legislative proposals and initiatives taking place in Congress. I encourage you to review this bulletin and share the information with your constituency and other leaders in your community.

During the August recess, Democrats held several forums and town hall meetings to discuss how national issues are impacting America's families and communities, including a town hall meeting on higher education and the future of historically black colleges and universities.

We listened to thousands of Americans as they expressed concerns about the economy and jobs, education, healthcare and security.

As Congress returns to its Fall session, Democrats are energized and united in our efforts to fight against the Republican Majority's assaults on children, working families and seniors and we will continue working to pass legislation through the 108th Congress that will improve the lives of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Labor Day 2003

America's Workers Deserve Better!

Labor Day is an occasion for remembrance and rededication. We remember the generations before us who struggled and sacrificed so that we might enjoy the quality of life and standard of living we cherish today.

Sadly, this Labor Day was not a time of celebration for millions of Americans who are suffering under the relentless assault on working families being waged by President Bush and Republicans in Congress:

- There are over **9 million unemployed American workers** including the more than three million workers who have lost their job since President Bush took office, the worst record on jobs since Herbert Hoover during the Great Depression;
- In August the unemployment rate for **African Americans was 10.9 percent** - this keeps the unemployment rate for African Americans at levels not seen since 1995.

America's hard-working families deserve better! They deserve a President and a Congress who will fight for economic opportunity, fairness and justice; for good jobs with good wages; for the right to organize and form a union; for the right to affordable, quality health care; for the right to a first-rate education; and for equal pay for equal work. America's working families deserve nothing less.



Back to School

As Congress returns to Washington, students nationwide are heading back to school.

However, the Republican majority have broken their promises to America's children and parents:

Leader Pelosi addresses constituents during August Back to School event in San Francisco.

- More than 2 million children will not get help with the basics of reading and math because Republicans refused to provide schools with adequate funding as promised by the No Child Left Behind Act.

- More than one million children will not have access to after-school programs. Instead of expanding the groundbreaking Head Start program to include more children, Republicans voted to cut off enrollment and eliminate the program's high standards.
- In the face of skyrocketing college tuitions, Republicans voted to freeze federal Pell Grants at last year's level, rather than providing students with reasonable means to pay for a college education.

Democrats in Congress are fighting for an education agenda where all of our children succeed.

By investing in education reform to improve teacher training, raise student achievement in reading and math, provide quality early education and affordable higher education, Democrats will make sure that all students are given the chance to succeed.

Air Inequalities

In the past few weeks, the Bush administration eased a series of important environmental regulations governing air pollution. Below are remarks from Leader Pelosi's statement on the Environmental Protection Agency's new regulations on "new source review" which weaken the Clean Air Act. The regulations will make it easier for older industrial facilities and power plants to upgrade without reducing the pollution they emit. Currently, when plants are upgraded they must meet Clean Air Act requirements.

"Clean air is not a luxury. Nearly 175 million Americans live in areas that fail to meet the health-based air standards of the Clean Air Act. Health conditions that are linked to air pollution, such as asthma, are on the rise. The Bush Administration should increase its enforcement of the Clean Air Act, not gut it."

-Nancy Pelosi

- In 2002, 71% of African Americans lived in counties that violate federal air pollution standards.
- Most African Americans live near a power plant. Sixty-eight percent of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant - the distance within which the maximum effects of the smokestack plume are expected to occur.
- Asthma attacks send African Americans to the emergency room at three times the rate (174.3 visits per 10,000 population) of whites (59.4 visits per 10,000 population).
- In a comparison of 86 cities in the U.S., researchers found that infants who lived in a highly polluted city during their first two months of life had a higher mortality rate than infants living in the city with the cleanest air.
- A study of the 15 largest U.S. cities found that climate change would increase heat-related deaths by at least 90%. Most African Americans live in inner cities, which tend to be about 10 degrees warmer than their surrounding areas.

Source: www.cleartheair.org

To view Leader Pelosi's entire statement visit <http://democraticleader.house.gov>.

African American Workgroup Supporting HBCUs



LAAW Members with GSU Acting President Dr. Neari Warner, Louisiana State and local elected officials.

The Congressional August recess provided an excellent opportunity for the Leader's African American Workgroup (LAAW) to move beyond the beltway and take its outreach efforts on the road. Louisiana's 5th Congressional district, represented by Congressman Rodney Alexander, served as the host district for the LAAW event which was a forum on the State of Higher Education and the Future of HBCUs. The

forum, held on the campus of Grambling State University was also attended by Representatives Jim Clyburn (SC), Chair of the Leader's African American Workgroup; Elijah Cummings (MD), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; and Chris John (LA).

More than 100 students, faculty, university administrators, state and local officials and Grambling residents attended.

During the forum, Members

urged increased support for the country's 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In an exchange of ideas and conversation with educators, students and community members, Clyburn said that the Leader's African American Workgroup and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi continue to push for more money for these necessary institutions. "America's 103 HBCUs are responsible for educating 28 percent of our nation's black college graduates, so naturally they play a significant role in shaping African American leaders," Congressman Clyburn said. "However, the proportion of federal funding for these institutions and their students does not reflect the contributions they make to our country."



Dr. Warner welcomes LAAW Members to GSU.



1988 NFL Superbowl MVP and GSU Head Football Coach Doug Williams with Rep. John and Rep. Cummings.

To learn more about the Leader's African American workgroup, contact Tracie Pough in the Leader's Outreach Office at tracie.pough@mail.house.gov.